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**Burgh of Bathgate.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**BY**

***The Burgh Surveyor,***

***The Medical Officer of Health***

**AND**

***The Sanitary Inspector,***

***For Year 1922.***

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***The Medical Officer of Health***

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***For Year 1922.***

BURGH CHAMBERS,  
BATHGATE, 25th April, 1923.

TO THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BURGH OF BATHGATE.

GENTLEMEN,—

In terms of the requirements of the Scottish Board of Health and in compliance with Circular issued on 28th December, 1922, I herewith submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1922.

The Medical Officer's Annual Report is, as usual, presented under the same cover.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW L. REID,  
Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

# BURGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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## WATER SUPPLY.

In the Report for the year 1921 a short historical sketch of facts connected with the introduction of a gravitation water supply to the burgh and of the various schemes designed to augment the quantity derived from the original source of supply as the town developed was furnished. Observations on this occasion will, therefore, be limited to the year under review.

There was an unrestricted supply for all purposes throughout the whole season. In one respect, however, the experience of last year was unique because the quantity of water stored in our reservoirs continued to diminish until within a week of the end of the year, for only on Christmas Day did a perceptible increase become manifest. There was then but a few weeks' supply left in our reservoirs.

Although at the advanced season of the year there was no real cause for anxiety regarding the depleted state of the reservoirs, the conditions were so abnormal as to suggest reference to records and the nearest comparison obtained was in 1897 or 25 years ago when rain in sufficient quantity to replenish the exhausted supplies did not fall till the month of December had run well its course.

At the end of January a commencement was made with the construction of a new reservoir on a site purchased at Ballencrieff and men have been continuously employed since then. Although good progress has been made, the work was not sufficiently advanced to permit of expectations being realised in having impounded a few million gallons of the product from the winter's rainfall. The character of the area is such that only a limited yield is obtained from it during the summer months. For approximately seven months in a normal year all water derived from this gathering ground can, without storage, be drawn from and delivered at the filters.

As no new source of supply is meantime, at least, being tapped, and as the essential purpose for which additional storage capacity is being provided is to intercept the excess flow in the course of about five months in each year, the new reservoir will in all probability remain empty, or nearly so, after completion until the incidence of the autumn rainfall.

All timber work connected with the gangways at Petershill No. 1 and No. 2 reservoirs was removed and new creosoted timber substituted. The carrying beams were also cleaned, scaled and covered with an anti-corrosive coating.

## RAINFALL.

In our local circumstances, where about half the volume of water gravitating to the reservoirs in the course of the winter months runs to waste through lack of sufficient storage, rainfall during the summer months is relatively of much more value than the winter's rainfall. Up till and including the month of July the fall was fairly equally distributed and assisted appreciably in maintaining a full supply to all consumers. July with a measurement of 3.89 inches was the wettest month of the year, and the greatest fall on any day occurred on 8th of that month when 1.02 inches were registered. For the year a total rainfall of 27.75 inches was measured from the gauge at the Filters, which is read daily, as against a fall of 36.24 inches for the previous year. It will thus be observed that the rainfall at the Filters for the year 1922 was smaller in quantity than that of the immediately preceding year by no less than 8.49 inches. Rain in measurable quantities also fell on 186 days as against 189 days in 1921, so that, contrary to general physical observation, the rainfall for 1922 was not only considerable but there were 3 fewer wet days.

On the three gauges the rainfall registered was as under-noted :—

No. 1 Gauge at Filters	... .. 27.75 inches.
No. 2 Gauge at Petershill Reservoir	25.80 inches.
No. 3 Gauge at Ballencrieff Reservoir	24.88 inches.

## BISHOPBRAE PUMPING STATION.

Water obtained through the agency of the auxiliary pumping plant at Bishopbrae is always costly, varying only in degree according to the price of oil which produces motive power for the engine driving the pump. The actual period of pumping in any year is, therefore, restricted within reasonable limits without incurring undue risks. As the product of the rainfall in July increased all sources of supply, it was deemed prudent to discontinue pumping temporarily and restart at a later period should occasion demand it. The necessity did not arise, however, and the period during which the pump was in operation only extended to 55 days.



## WATER MAINS.

The laying of water mains rendered necessary by the Housing Scheme for a system of distribution over the whole area has now been completed. A total length of 865 yards of 3-inch pipe with the necessary valves, fittings and fire hydrants has been laid.

A new water pipe 2 inches in diameter and extending to a length of 115 yards was laid from its connection with the main pipe in Kirkroads to the site of Veterans' Cottages. A short extension of 65 yards of 2-inch pipe was laid from the termination of the existing 3-inch pipe in Church Place.

## FILTERS.

Only for short periods after excessive rainfall does turbid water reach the filters. At all other times the water is clear and no difficulties are experienced in filtration. Routine work of skimming the beds as required has the material effect of reducing the depth of filtering aggregate until a stage is reached when the residue is removed and the bed refilled with either new or clean washed sand. Two beds were thus treated and over 150 tons of sand were deposited in position. No new filtering sand had been purchased for a period of years and as it became necessary to procure a quantity of fresh material, 20 tons of Loch Etive sand were obtained and thoroughly washed before being deposited in a filter bed.

## PREVENTION OF WASTE.

Those whose duties embrace the maintenance and management of a public water supply know full well that the extravagant and careless use of water furnishes the worst form of waste and one that can rarely be dealt with. In districts where the resources are not always equal to the demands, inspections for the detection and prevention of waste becomes a vital function of a water department's activities. It has been and is now so regarded in the burgh and in the course of his duties the Water Officer visited 1481 premises and examined over 4300 fittings, 404 of which were to a greater or less degree defective, and 16 were burst underground pipes. Each service branch pipe is tested at least once a year with the stethoscope. Not a few premises, where defective pipes have been found on more than one occasion are "black listed" and at these places tests are more frequently made.

A magnetic dipping needle was procured and has been very serviceable in locating tobies which have become, from one cause or another, covered over with various classes of material.

### SEWERS.

All main and tributary sewers at the Housing Site have now been completed. A total length of 1255 yards have been laid and of the undenoted dimensions :—

Length.	Diameter.
514 yards	12 inches
123 „	10 „
96 „	9 „
80 „	8 „
442 „	6 „

To serve the Veterans' Cottages a branch sewer 6 inches in diameter and 103 yards in length was also laid.

Flushing of sewers was continued throughout the year and the simple method by which a stream can now be diverted into our main sewers from the terminus and at the summit at Edinburgh Road section, scouring the whole length of intercepting and outfall sewer to the sewage disposal works, a distance of over two miles, is proving a very simple yet serviceable method of clearing out debris.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage Purification Works at Nethermuir continue to yield a satisfactory effluent. The detritus chambers are emptied of their contents as and when required. Tanks are partially cleared of sludge when occasion demands it. Percolating filter beds are given alternate periods of rest and all trouble with surface ponding is thereby avoided. The fact that tank effluent can be diverted to the area of land unoccupied by works renders such a course possible, and nature otherwise unaided, accomplishes the task of preventing the surface layers of beds from becoming clogged.

All structures and plant have been adequately maintained in good condition. After being in daily use for over 16 years it is not surprising that the mechanical parts require more attention and repairs than in previous years.

Cropping of the five acres at the purification works is not so remunerative as during the war years yet a good return is still obtained from the area. Last season's crop included cabbage, potatoes, mangel-wurzel and mashlem, the two latter furnishing bumper crops which afforded excellent feeding.



## SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

A daily collection of household and shop refuse has been continued as in former years. In response to the call for shorter hours, work ceases in this department each Saturday at noon. Experience soon demonstrated, however, that before evening, streets became rather unsightly and one man is now engaged for a period during the afternoon collecting waste paper, etc., from the main streets. On Sunday morning men are employed for fully two hours sweeping streets, while one cart collects and removes debris to the depot.

In the course of the year 2703 cart loads and 925 motor loads were removed in addition to 149 loads of snow during a period of recurring storms in January. A total of 3628 loads were thus conveyed to the point of disposal, and although the actual number of loads is less by 62, the weight conveyed was greater because the capacity of the Ford ton wagon considerably exceeds that of an ordinary cleansing department cart.

The area of collection is also extending and the development of the New Housing Scheme has added to the distance to be traversed daily. A practice, by no means new, which seems to have become a habit in not a few cases, of placing refuse for removal in large bulk at infrequent and irregular intervals has the effect of retarding in a great measure the smooth working of the daily routine in a cleansing department.

After a second year's experience of mechanical traction in the cleansing department, the opinion given expression to in last report can now be confirmed. Under our local conditions the collection and removal of domestic refuse can be and is being performed as satisfactorily and as economically by horse haulage as by mechanical traction in the form of a one-ton Ford wagon. This result is due mainly, if not solely to the fact that the distance to be traversed with full loads never exceeds three quarters of a mile.

With one exception efforts directed to salvaging various material from household refuse has been discontinued for the very simple and elementary reason that prices obtained offered no inducement to continue the practice.

Waste food is still collected by a separate arrangement and utilised for pig feeding. Profits from this venture are less than formerly but the rearing instead of purchasing stock has lessened the outlays and a fair return is still earned.

It is pleasing to learn that steps are being taken with a view to give effect to the resolution passed at the last annual conference of the Incorporated Sanitary Association of Scotland urging upon the Board of Health to call for an annual return with regard to costing of cleansing work. Unless and until such a return is obtained, comparisons as to cost are probably valueless.

To the end of last Financial year cleansing cost £1052 17s 7d, of which £741 12s 6d were expended in wages. It has been usual to present the cost in four ways and following that custom the undernoted figures are submitted:—

Cost per £ of nett assessable rental ... ..	5.82d
Cost per head of population ... ..	2s 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d
Cost per household ... ..	11s 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d
Cost per 1000 of population ... ..	£123.77

### ROADS AND STREETS.

Expenditure on roads and streets constitutes a record and totalled £3974. While £834 01 of that sum were absorbed in wages, a total of £842 were received in Government grants.

The quantity of material applied to road surfaces was likewise in excess of any previous year and weighed 2338 tons 1 cwt., classified as undernoted:—

Nature of Material.	Weight.
Tarred Whinstone Metal ... ..	1035 tons 19 cwts.
Tarred Slag Aggregate ... ..	522 tons 16 cwts.
Tarred Slag (Fine) ... ..	435 tons 4 cwts.
Dry Slag (Fine) ... ..	133 tons 2 cwts.
Tarred Whinstone Gravel ... ..	168 tons 5 cwts.
Whinstone Kerb (579 yards)...	42 tons 15 cwts.

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Total ... ..	2338 tons 1 cwt.
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Mechanically propelled traffic on the main Edinburgh and Glasgow road is still increasing, and ordinary tarred metal is proving inadequate as a wearing surface.

In order to test the wearing properties of other materials without adopting any of the more expensive asphaltic forms of surface, several stretches were coated with tarred nickel slag aggregate, finished with a coating of the same material but of a much finer grade and surface sealed with "Spraphalte" or "Rossphalte." The results have justified the extra expenditure, for on the sections thus treated there is still, after the whole winter's traffic, an excellent surface.

The seasonal work of resurfacing and tar spraying roads was proceeded with in the early part of the season. Prior to roads being coated with tar macadam for the first time, causeway channels were lifted and relaid in Chapel Lane and High Street.

Some sections of tar macadam roads were worn down beyond the point when mere spraying and chipping would suffice to restore a satisfactory surface, yet not sufficiently worn to warrant scarifying and the application of a new coat. To meet this situation a wearing crust of fine grade tarred nickel slag was applied.

At the Housing Site the formation and bottoming of all roads were completed and the traffic incident to the delivery of building materials was borne on the partially-finished surface. Sections of kerb were laid and footpaths formed with tar macadam on those sections where houses were occupied. The remaining sections of kerb will be laid and the whole area of carriageways surfaced with tar macadam and thoroughly rolled at an early date.

Widening of Kirkroads, opposite the Building Site, was advanced another stage. The excavations were fairly heavy. At one part the depth measured 11 feet and as the excavated material was removed, bottoming was laid in position, covered with blinding, which, after rolling, furnished a wearing surface for the traffic during winter months.

In the process of excavating a rather interesting archeological discovery was made. Not far removed from each other, four stone cists, each containing remnants of a human skeleton, were exposed. The sides and ends were formed of rough stone slabs. In only one case was there a stone covering which, unfortunately, had long since become broken, and soil had intermingled with the skeleton. As the length of the cists were all under five feet it would seem that they belonged to the early celtic period.

Work on the sections remaining to be dealt with is expected to be undertaken soon and completed during the summer months.

The Ford ton wagon, in contrast to its capabilities in the Cleansing Department, continues to be a very valuable asset to the work on roads in the expeditious and economical transport of material.

## LIGHTING.

The type of burners used in street lanterns is being gradually changed. As the old patterns become defective, inverted superheated burners are substituted. Lamps of candle power commensurate to the position of the pillar are being fitted in position. Thus in central and open areas there are 6 high candle power lamps, while at street junctions, lamps having a cluster of 3 burners are adopted. In other situations there are 15 burners with 2 mantles.

For the lighting of Sutherland Crescent, the position of an existing lamp was altered and 4 new pillars with lanterns and fittings were erected. Similarly in Kirkroad 3 additional lamps were furnished. In addition to the Town Clock, which has 16 burners, viz., 4 in each dial, the total number of lamps now in use is 195 and public lighting cost in the last financial year £773 3s 2d, which is equivalent to a rate of exactly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d per £.

## DEAN OF GUILD COURT.

The condition of the building industry is reflected in the activities of the Dean of Guild Court and one regrets to report that only 5 petitions were presented to the Court, and warrants granted as craved, in the course of the year.

Minor warrants are granted by the Burgh Surveyor under Section 40 of the Burgh Police Act, 1903, and 11 were issued to applicants.

## GENERAL.

Advantage was taken of the opportunity provided when men were engaged with suitable tackle pointing and repairing the spire of the Parish Church, to have the external surfaces of the dials of the Town Clock scaled, cleaned and repainted.

The advisability of constructing a means of communication between Mid Street and Engine Street was frequently debated. Acting on a remit the whole area at "Stewart's Field" was surveyed and a report on the levels with alternative plans were submitted as to the practicability of forming a new road to Church Place with a loop to Mid Street by way of Rosemount. A suggestion to show if possible a proposed site for a Town Hall was also given effect to, but the Scheme was adversely reported upon.

In an effort to provide work for the unemployed, several schemes were prepared and considered on their merits. A

report and estimate in detail of the cost involved in laying a main water pipe from Whitelaw to Kirkton Dam, a distance of over a mile, were prepared and submitted, but as the major portion of expenditure would have been absorbed in the price of material, the matter was delayed indefinitely.

Thereafter a scheme for widening the main Edinburgh and Glasgow Road eastwards from its junction with Mid Street was considered and ultimately a joint scheme with the Bathgate District Committee, along with estimates of the cost, was presented to the Ministry of Transport (Roads Department) who signified their intention under certain conditions, to bear 50 per cent. of the cost, but a decision between parties has not yet been arrived at.

Another Scheme which engaged the attention of the Unemployment Committee was the laying of several sections of sewers in Kirkroad area. Schedules and estimates were also prepared in this instance and while the matter is still pending this scheme will require to proceed at no distant date.

Work incidental to the activities of the Council included the cultivation and cropping of approximately 15 acres of land which was feud and intended to be used for the second part of the Housing Scheme.

There was a larger expenditure than usual on estate work in the repair of steadings; the rebuilding and pointing of walls and the erection of new fences.

The practice of former years of carrying out all work by direct labour under the supervision of the Burgh Surveyor has been continued.



# BURGH OF BATHGATE.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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- (a) The situation of the Burgh on the slope of Bathgate hills is most satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. The drainage—natural and artificial—and the water supply are satisfactory in every respect.

Notwithstanding the many new houses which have been completed under the Housing Scheme, the housing problem is still a source of anxiety in connection with the public health of the Burgh. Overcrowding persists to a great extent, and this far too often in derelict property that is not fit for human habitation. It is necessary that a considerable number of two room houses should be erected at once to remedy this state of affairs, and in addition, it might be desirable to provide some one-room houses, suitable for old people. Many of the older houses should be destroyed, for as long as they stand they will be occupied.

- (b) During the year general enquiries were made in regard to 74 Notifications of Infectious Disease. This shows a diminution from the previous year when there were 85 Notifications. Of the 74, 36 were of Scarlet Fever, all of a mild type; 19 of Pneumonia, an increase of 6; 10 of Diphtheria; 6 of Erysipelas and 3 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was satisfactorily carried out by the Child Welfare Nurse and all were completely cured.
- (c). No offensive trades are established within the Burgh.
- (d) Visits were made from time to time to various workshops and factories.
- (e) Not applicable to Medical Officer of Health.
- (f) No conditions have arisen during the year or are expected to arise in the near future, pointing to the expediency of adopting a Town Planning Scheme for the proper control of further development. There is only one feuing superior in the Burgh and feuing is carried out on specified lines.



- (g) The necessary forms required by the Board of Health with regard to Rivers' Pollution prevention were completed and despatched to the Scottish Board of Health—this being part of a general inquiry being made at present by the Board.
- (h) The Slaughter-house was inspected according to custom at regular intervals, and was found to be kept in as satisfactory a condition as is possible under the circumstances.
- (i) Tippethill Hospital continues to be the receiving hospital for cases of infectious disease in the Burgh. The iron pavilion erected for the purpose of receiving cases of Smallpox continued to be used temporarily as a Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (j) There is no disinfecting station within the Burgh.
- (k) All cases of infectious disease notified are at once investigated by the Sanitary Inspector. Where hospital treatment is considered necessary, it is adopted. In addition, all infectious diseases, notifiable and non-notifiable, occurring in schools in the Burgh, are regularly notified to the Medical Officer of Health as Medical Officer to the Education Authority.
- (l) No action, beyond notification, for the control of Pneumonia, Dysentery and Trench Fever has been adopted. There are no known "carriers" in the Burgh, and, therefore, no action has been necessary.
- (m) The arrangements with reference to the treatment of Venereal Disease continue in operation.
- (n) The 8 deaths from Influenza and the 10 from Pneumonia are, of course, attributable to the Influenza epidemic in the early Spring. The 11 deaths from Tuberculosis are referred to in the next paragraph.
- (o) Tuberculosis. A Scheme which the Local Authority had in operation covering a system of Domiciliary and Sanatorium Treatment was approved by the Scottish Board of Health. During the year 16 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 15 of these were Pulmonary and the other one Glandular. Of these 11 died during the year; 5 had Sanatorium treatment at Tippethill and one notified in a previous year had a second course of treatment at Tippethill 1 was treated at Southfield Sanatorium and 1 at Shotts Sanatorium.

It would be a great advantage while East Fortune is still unavailable for adult patients, if Tippethill Sanatorium, at present empty, could be used as formerly for Sanatorium purposes.

- (p) The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme continues in satisfactory operation. A separate report of its working has already been submitted. It is noted that the Infantile Mortality is 73 per 1000 births as compared with 93 in 1921.
- (q) Not applicable.
- (r) The milk supply is satisfactory.
- (s) The Sanitary Inspector visits the Slaughter-house daily and any suspected material is immediately brought to his notice by the Superintendent. Other places are also kept under supervision.
- (t) No action.
- (u) No action.
- (v) No action.
- (w) Extracts.

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## EXTRACTS FROM MEDICAL OFFICER'S TABLES FOR 1922.

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Registered Births ... ..	205
Birth Rate per 1000 of estimate population ... ..	23.9
Registered Deaths ... ..	105
Death-Rate per 1000 of estimated population ... ..	13.1
Deaths under 1 years per 1000 births (infantile mortality rate) ... ..	73

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Whooping Cough ... ..	1
Measles ... ..	1
Diphtheria ... ..	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1
Influenza ... ..	8
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	0
Other Epidemic Diseases ... ..	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	11
Other Tuberculus Disease ... ..	2
Malignant Tumours... ..	7
Meningitis ... ..	4
Apoplexy ... ..	7
Heart Disease ... ..	7
Diseases of Arteries... ..	1
Bronchitis ... ..	5
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ... ..	3
Appendicitis ... ..	0
Nephritis ... ..	1
Diseases of Early Infancy ... ..	7
Violent Deaths ... ..	4
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	24
Causes <del>III.</del> Defined or Unknown ... ..	0
<i>All defined „ „</i>	
Total ... ..	105

*John Hunter.*

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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## NUISANCES.

In the routine of visitation throughout the Burgh numerous nuisances of a minor character were observed and abated immediately the parties responsible had their attention directed to the existence of a nuisance. The bulk of work associated with the removal of nuisances is accomplished by verbal notices. All premises in the Burgh are visited at least once a year by one of the staff in the person of the Water Officer and any insanitary conditions observed are immediately dealt with. Similarly the Lady Health Visitor also reports to the Sanitary Inspector when, in the course of the discharge of her primary duties, any nuisances are noticed. During the year 16 complaints were received and 42 intimations under Sec. 19 of the Public Health Act were issued. It was not found necessary to issue any notices under Section 20.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Observations in previous reports regarding the structure still apply. As a public slaughter-house, the buildings have been used for 55 years. It cannot, therefore, be claimed that the structure and internal fittings comply with what are regarded as essentials in a modern abbatoir. The question of the erection of a new slaughter-house has been informally discussed by the Town Council on more than one occasion, but the cost involved in such a project has barred further progress.

The buildings have been maintained in a fair state of repair. Lime-washing and painting work is periodically attended to, and the premises are kept in a reasonably clean condition.

Were a comparison made with the immediately preceding year it will be found that 143 fewer animals were slaughtered. The prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease at the beginning of the year, with the consequent restrictions in the movement of stock, had a very marked effect on the slaughter-house returns. Whereas in January, 311 animals passed through the booths, only 171 were slaughtered during the month of February.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 3157 as against 3300 for the year 1921.

The classification of animals is as follows :—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.	Total.
690	119	1315	1033	3157

While the class of animal brought to the slaughter-house leaves little to be desired, it was found necessary in the course of the year to condemn 2 entire carcasses and 4 were partially condemned and destroyed. Several diseased organs were also destroyed.

### UN SOUND FOOD.

A total of 63 visits associated with the inspection of food was made. The itinerant hawker of fish is not now so often seen in the streets and probably this may be due, in some measure at least, to the frequent examination to which his stock was subjected at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector. For the year the total weight of unsound food taken possession of and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption was 1 ton 1 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs.

### SCHOOLS.

The condition of three of the schools calls for no special comment. For some years it was necessary to direct attention to the general insanitary state of St Mary's School. It is pleasing to record, therefore, that during the year there has been a very marked improvement in the condition of the main structure and lavatory accommodation.

There is one feature common to all the schools which should, in the near future, disappear. All drinking water for pupils is still obtained by means of the common drinking cup. Such a method has become antiquated. It violates the most elementary hygienic precepts; is not devoid of danger in the spread of certain forms of disease, and possesses no redeeming features. By the introduction of the simple jet drinking fountain, devoid of any cup, a cleanly system and one beyond reproach, of supplying drinking water to school children can be assured.

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Along with the Medical Officer all bakehouses were visited, and in one instance it became necessary to revisit on several occasions.

In the course of the year 52 visits were made to factories and workshops and as a result 3 notices were issued under Section 2 (3) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Defects observed in the case of two bakehouses were remedied without formal notices being issued.

### **COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**

Having regard to the strict interpretation of the term, there are no common lodging-houses in the Burgh. The house situated in Chapel Lane is now registered as a house let in lodgings.

The structure is maintained in good order and repair and the house is kept in a clean condition. Any irregularities observed when visiting the premises were trivial in their nature and any suggestions made with a view to improvement were immediately given effect to.

### **DAIRIES.**

The number of dairies and of persons selling milk within the Burgh remain unaltered, although there has been slight changes among those engaged in the trade. Only at two byres are cows stalled. With these exceptions all milk sold is produced outwith the burgh boundaries, some of it coming from a considerable distance.

Conducted as a branch of their business, the Co-operative Society collects supplies over a wide area by means of motor traction, in addition to the quantity daily delivered by farmers. There has been no occasion to deal with any breach of the Dairy Regulations.

### **BURIAL GROUNDS.**

The only burial ground now used for interments is under the capable management and control of the Parish Council and is kept in a most satisfactory state.

### **PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE BURGH POLICE ACT.**

#### **COMMON PASSAGES AND STAIRS.**

In terms of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, Section 117, as amended by the Burgh Police Act of 1903, 176 notices were sent to owners of common passages and



stairs. Where there was undue delay in carrying out the terms of the notice a second request was made in 56 instances, and for those who appeared to be extremely dilatory in having the necessary lime-washing or painting carried out, 15 third and final notices were issued.

## CLEANSING OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Only on rare occasions did it become necessary for the Sanitary Inspector to use his statutory powers in order to secure the cleansing of dwelling-houses. The influence of the Lady Health Visitor is clearly traced in this province and through her influence, exerted in the course of her ordinary visitation, the standard has been appreciably raised.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In ordinary routine work associated with the occurrence of infectious disease there were 237 visits of enquiry and 95 houses were disinfected. It is now ten years since the Milne treatment of Scarlet Fever was introduced and the method has been practised continuously since then with satisfactory results to the patients themselves and also as regards the prevention of infection to other members of the family. It may be stated with a very fair degree of accuracy that normally scarlet fever patients are treated at home and that only when special circumstances exist or arise are patients removed to hospital. Supervision of patients at home naturally involves, however, a larger number of visits.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

For the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, 30 samples were secured and sent to the Public Analyst. Of that number 20 were test or scouting samples and 10 were purchased in the formal manner prescribed by statute. All the formal samples, which were of milk, were declared to be genuine, while three of the test samples were adulterated. It may be significant to note that the average of fat in the formal samples was 3.69 per cent., and for solids not fat 8.82 per cent.

The nature of samples procured for analysis was as undernoted:—

Milk.	Butter.	Rice.	Lentils.	Total.
23	4	2	1	30

## HOUSING.

At the end of the year a total of 90 houses constructed under the Housing Scheme were occupied. Of that number 56 are of three apartments with bath-room, scullery, etc., and 34 are four apartment houses. Progress has been slower than was anticipated, but all the 136 houses included in the Scheme will be occupied by Whitsunday term.

The Town Council, in an effort to ascertain the number and nature of dwelling-houses still desired, are in course of obtaining the necessary information to aid them in framing their future housing scheme.

It is difficult to state with accuracy what effect, if any, the building of those additional houses have had in relieving congestion throughout the Burgh. Were one to hazard an opinion, based on an extensive series of visits, he would be constrained to declare without hesitation that no improvement is perceived.

Overcrowding is still not infrequently met with and two recent examples may be accepted as of the worst type. A two apartment house, forming part of a very old building, the construction of which at once suggested a "loom shop" as used in the days of hand loom weaving, had 10 occupants. There were 8 members of the family and 2 male lodgers. The ages of the members of the family varied in the case of a son of 21 years and a daughter 20 years of age to a child not yet at school. In the two apartments, the cubic capacity, clear of bed recesses, only measured 2270 cubic feet. The floor space was fairly large, but the height of ceiling was only 6 feet 6 inches, and were a moderate standard of 400 cubic feet per person adopted there was really only accommodation for 5 adults and 1 child under 10 years of age.

In a second case of overcrowding which came under review, the house was of 2 apartments, one of which was sublet to another family of 3 persons. The apartment reserved by the tenant had a small closet where there was scarce room for a bed, and in the only living room a general merchant's business was being developed. The energy and business acumen of the housewife had the small and only window so utilised in the exhibition of stock that light could only penetrate with difficulty into the apartment. The floor space, already too limited, was encroached upon by a miscellaneous collection of saleable goods, and the cubic contents, without deductions for bulky merchandise, just exceeded 1300 cubic feet.

Including the parents the family numbered 7 persons and the 5 children were of school age, the eldest having reached 14 years of age.

In the publication of the detailed report on the census, much valuable and authoritative information on housing is placed at our disposal. From this source it is observed that at the date of the census there were 1671 inhabited dwelling-houses within the Burgh, thereby showing, after deducting the number closed in the interval, an intercensal increase of only 13 houses. It is noted, however, that 53 houses were in course of erection.

What is possibly of more importance from the Local Authority's point of view is the chronicled fact of there being 1769 separate occupiers, or stated otherwise, that sub-letting existed in no fewer than 97 houses. At the census in 1911, only 19 such cases were noted.

A general idea with regard to overcrowding is arrived at by the number of persons enumerated per room, thus deducting those living in other than private dwellings, persons living per room, as also the percentage of population living (per room) is arrived at:

Persons living not more than 2 per room ... ..	3414
Persons living not more than 3 per room ... ..	2230
Persons living not more than 4 per room ... ..	1340
Persons living more than 4 per room ... ..	1380
Percentage of population living not more than 2 per room	40.8
Percentage of population living not more than 3 per room	26.7
Percentage of population living not more than 4 per room	16.0
Percentage of population living more than 4 per room ...	16.5

It will be noted that 1380 persons forming 16.5 per cent. of the population were living in rooms occupied by more than four persons. While it is possible and also probable that overcrowding, in a legal sense, did not exist in all cases, it is nevertheless true to state that the figures disclose conditions which leave much to be desired.

Pursuing the investigation a little further and making a comparison with the census of 1911 to demonstrate whether there has been progress or retrogression, the following general summary is presented:—

	1911	1921
Number of occupied houses ... ..	1658	1671
1 room... ..	248	229
2 rooms ... ..	829	833
3 rooms ... ..	296	324
4 rooms ... ..	127	128

## Percentage of houses :—

1 room ... ..	14.9	13.7
2 rooms ... ..	50.0	49.9
3 rooms ... ..	17.8	19.4
4 rooms ... ..	7.6	7.7

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Population ... .. 8226 8504

## living in houses of :—

1 room ... ..	814	873
2 rooms ... ..	4360	4362
3 rooms ... ..	1494	1726
4 rooms ... ..	659	641

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Percentage of Population  
living in houses of :—

1 room ... ..	10.06	10.3
2 rooms ... ..	53.9	51.3
3 rooms ... ..	18.4	20.3
4 rooms ... ..	8.1	7.5

It is only fair to state that the figures presented will not now apply to three and four apartment houses, but it can also be urged that there has been no radical change in the tenancy of one and two apartment dwellings.

## BURGH OF BATHGATE.

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### Statement by Sanitary Inspector of Proceedings under the Public Health and other Acts during 1922.

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#### I.—NUISANCES.

Complaints Received ... ..	16
Intimations served under Section 19 ... ..	42
Notices served under Section 20 ... ..	0

#### II.—WORKSHOPS.

Inspections ... ..	52
Notices served under Section 2 (3) of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 ... ..	3

#### III.—TENTS AND VANS.

Inspections ... ..	27
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#### IV.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits of Inquiry, etc. ... ..	237
Patients removed to Hospital ... ..	12
Notices served under Section 53 (2) ... ..	74
Notices served under Section 50 (2) ... ..	
Intimations to School Boards, teachers, etc. ... ..	21
Houses or Premises Disinfected ... ..	93
Sets of clothing, bedding, etc., disinfected or destroyed	114

#### V.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

On Register at 1st January, 1922 ... ..	4
Registered during year ... ..	4
Removed from Register ... ..	0
On Register at 31st December, 1922 ... ..	4
Inspections ... ..	24

## VI.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Slaughter-houses belonging to Local Authority ... ..	1
Inspections of Slaughter-house ... ..	Daily

## VII.—UNSOUND FOOD.

Inspections under Section 43 ... ..	63
Animals or carcasses or articles of food destroyed with owners' consent by or at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector ... ..	9

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Samples procured for analysis ... ..	10
Certified to be genuine ... ..	10
Test Samples... ..	20
Certified to be genuine ... ..	17
Certified to be adulterated ... ..	3





